

unit shall promptly reevaluate the deficiency, causes, and the corrective action taken, and develop and implement new corrective actions.

[Amdt. 160, 45 FR 15909, Mar. 11, 1980]

Subpart F—Responsibilities for Reporting on Program Performance

§ 275.20 ME review schedules.

(a) Each State agency shall submit its review schedule to the appropriate FNS regional office at least 60 days prior to the beginning of the next year's review period (the Federal fiscal year). These schedules must ensure that all project areas/management units will be reviewed within the required time limits. Each schedule shall identify the project areas/management units in each classification and list each project area to be reviewed by month or by quarter. A State agency may submit a request to use an alternate review schedule at any time. The alternate schedule shall not be effective until approved by FNS in accordance with § 275.5(b)(2).

(b) State agencies shall notify the appropriate FNS regional office of all changes in review schedules.

[Amdt. 266, 52 FR 3410, Feb. 4, 1987]

§ 275.21 Quality control review reports.

(a) *General.* Each State agency shall submit reports on the performance of quality control reviews in accordance with the requirements outlined in this section. These reports are designed to enable FNS to monitor the State agency's compliance with Program requirements relative to the Quality Control Review System. Every case selected for review during the sample month must be accounted for and reflected in the appropriate report(s).

(b) *Individual cases.* The State agency shall report the review findings on each case selected for review during the sample month. For active cases, the State agency shall submit the edited findings of the Integrated Review Schedule, Form FNS-380-1. For negative cases, the State agency shall submit a summary report which is produced from the edited findings on indi-

vidual cases which are coded on the Negative Quality Control Review Schedule, Form FNS-245. The review findings shall be reported as follows:

(1) The State agency shall input and edit the results of each active and negative case into the FNS supplied computer terminal and transmit the data to the host computer. For State agencies that do not have FNS supplied terminals, the State agency shall submit the results of each QC review in a format specified by FNS. Upon State agency request, FNS will consider approval of a change in the review results after they have been reported to FNS.

(2) The State agency shall dispose of and report the findings of 90 percent of all cases selected in a given sample month so that they are received by FNS within 75 days of the end of the sample month. All cases selected in a sample month shall be disposed of and the findings reported so that they are received by FNS within 95 days of the end of the sample month.

(3) The State agency shall supply the FNS Regional Office with individual household case records and the pertinent information contained in the individual case records, or legible copies of that material, as well as legible hard copies of individual Forms FNS-380, FNS-380-1, and FNS-245 or other FNS-approved report forms, within 10 days of receipt of a request for such information.

(4) For each case that remains pending 95 days after the end of the sample month, the State agency shall immediately submit a report that includes an explanation of why the case has not been disposed of, documentation describing the progress of the review to date, and the date by which it will be completed. If FNS determines that the above report does not sufficiently justify the case's pending status, the case shall be considered overdue. Depending upon the number of overdue cases, FNS may find the State agency's QC system to be inefficient or ineffective and suspend and/or disallow the State agency's Federal share of administrative funds in accordance with the provisions of § 276.4.

(c) *Monthly status.* The State agency shall report the monthly progress of sample selection and completion on the

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Form FNS-248, Status of Sample Selection and Completion or other format specified by FNS. This report shall be submitted to FNS so that it is received no later than 105 days after the end of the sample month. Each report shall reflect sampling and review activity for a given sample month.

(d) *Annual results.* The State agency shall annually report the results of all quality control reviews during the review period. For this report, the State agency shall submit the edited results of all QC reviews on the Form FNS-247, Statistical Summary of Sample Distribution or other format specified by FNS. This report shall be submitted to FNS so that it is received no later than 105 days from the end of the annual review period. Every case selected in the active or negative sample must be accounted for and reported to FNS, including cases not subject to review, not completed, and completed.

(e) *Demonstration projects/SSA processing.* The State agency shall identify the monthly status of active and negative demonstration project/SSA processed cases (i.e., those cases described in § 275.11(g)) on the Form FNS-248, described in paragraph (c) of this section. In addition, the State agency shall identify the annual results of such cases on the Form FNS-247, described in paragraph (d) of this section.

[Amdt. 260, 49 FR 6310, Feb. 17, 1984, as amended by Amdt. 262, 49 FR 50598, Dec. 31, 1984; Amdt. 266, 52 FR 3410, Feb. 4, 1987]

§ 275.22 Administrative procedure.

Reports on program performance are intended to provide the State an opportunity to determine compliance with program requirements, identify and resolve emerging problems, and assess the effectiveness of actions that have been taken to correct existing problems. States' reports enable FNS to assess the nationwide status of eligibility and basis of issuance determinations, to ensure State compliance with Federal requirements, to assist States in improving and strengthening their programs, and to develop Federal policies. Reports must be submitted in duplicate to the appropriate FNS Regional Office according to the time frames estab-

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lished in §§ 275.20, 275.21, and 275.22 of this part.

[Amdt. 160, 45 FR 15911, Mar. 11, 1980. Redesignated at 52 FR 3410, Feb. 4, 1987]

Subpart G—Program Performance

§ 275.23 Determination of State agency program performance.

(a) FNS shall determine the efficiency and effectiveness of a State's administration of the Food Stamp Program by measuring:

(1) State compliance with the standards contained in the Food Stamp Act, regulations, and the State Plan of Operation; and

(2) State efforts to improve program operations through corrective action.

(b) This determination shall be made based on:

(1) Reports submitted to FNS by the State;

(2) FNS reviews of State agency operations;

(3) State performance reporting systems and corrective action efforts; and

(4) Other available information such as Federal audits and investigations, civil rights reviews, administrative cost data, complaints, and any pending litigation.

(c) *State agency error rates.* FNS shall estimate each State agency's error rates based on the results of quality control review reports submitted in accordance with the requirements outlined in § 275.21. The State agency's active case error, payment error, underissuance error, and negative case error rates shall be estimated as follows:

(1) *Active case error rate.* The active case error rate shall include the proportion of active sample cases which were reported as ineligible or as receiving an incorrect allotment (as described in § 275.12(e)) based upon certification policy as set forth in part 273.

(2) *Payment error rate.* (i) For fiscal years prior to Fiscal Year 1986, the payment error rate shall include the value of the allotments overissued, including overissuances to ineligible cases, for those cases included in the active error rate.

(ii) For Fiscal Year 1986 and subsequent fiscal years, the payment error